

Serial No.: 10/016,161

RD26440-5

Amdt. Dated January 16, 2004

Reply to Office action of December 16, 2003.

Amendments to the claims

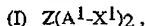
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-24 (Cancelled)

25. (Currently amended) A method for preparing at least one hydroxy-terminated oligomer of a polyether polymer which comprises:

preparing a copolymer of a first polymer which is a polyethersulfone, polyetherketone, or polyetherimide and a second condensation polymer characterized by structural units containing an oxycarbonyl group, by contacting, under reactive conditions, at least one salt of a dihydroxyaromatic compound with at least one substituted aromatic compound of the formula



wherein Z is an activating radical, A^1 is an aromatic radical and X^1 is fluoro, chloro, bromo or nitro, in the presence of said second polymer; and

contacting said copolymer with aqueous alkali under reactive conditions, thus hydrolyzing ~~carbonate and ester units~~ the oxycarbonyl group.

26. (Original) The method according to claim 25 wherein the dihydroxyaromatic compound salt is a sodium or potassium salt.

27. (Original) The method according to claim 25 wherein the second polymer is a polyester.

28. (Original) The method according to claim 25 wherein the second polymer is a polycarbonate.

29. (Original) The method according to claim 28 wherein the polycarbonate is a bisphenol A polycarbonate.

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30. (Original) The method according to claim 29 wherein the substituted aromatic compound is a bis(haloaryl) sulfone.

31. (Original) The method according to claim 25 wherein a water-immiscible aromatic compound is present as solvent.

32. (Original) The method according to claim 31 wherein the solvent is o-dichlorobenzene or anisole or a mixture thereof.

33. (Original) The method according to claim 31 wherein a phase transfer catalyst is also present.

34. (Original) The method according to claim 33 wherein the phase transfer catalyst is a hexaalkylguanidinium halide.

35. (Original) The method according to claim 33 wherein the contact temperature in the copolymer preparation step is in the range of about 125-250°C.

36. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing at least one hydroxy-terminated oligomer of a polyethersulfone which comprises:

preparing a copolymer of a polyethersulfone and a polycarbonate by contacting, under reactive conditions, at least one alkali metal salt of bisphenol A with bis(4-chlorophenyl) sulfone in the presence of said polycarbonate in solution in o-dichlorobenzene or anisole, further in the presence of about 1-10 mole percent, based on said bis(4-chlorophenyl) sulfone, of a hexaalkylguanidinium halide as phase transfer catalyst and at a temperature in the range of about 125-250°C to afford a copolymer comprising carbonate units; and

contacting said copolymer with aqueous sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide under reactive conditions, thus hydrolyzing carbonate units.